

MARVEL

#3

DUGGAN
IRVING

All-New

GUARDIANS of the GALAXY





BLACK SHEEP, SCOUNDRELS, WEIRDOS: PETER QUILL--A.K.A. STAR-LORD--DRAX THE DESTROYER, GAMORA, ROCKET RACCOON, AND GROOT LEARNED TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN INTERESTS, THEN DISCOVERED THEY COULD NOT STAND BY WHEN THE UNIVERSE WAS IN PERIL. THEY HAVE NO OFFICIAL JURISDICTION, BUT IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE (OR YOU'VE GOT A LINE ON A SCORE) IN THE MILKY WAY, YOU CAN CALL THE...

All-New

ISSUE 003

GUARDIANS of the GALAXY

in



"Includere"

THE GUARDIANS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO ELDERS OF THE UNIVERSE--STEALING FROM THE COLLECTOR FOR THE GRANDMASTER--PARTLY FOR MONETARY GAIN, BUT PARTLY FOR REASONS GAMORA IS KEEPING TO HERSELF. SHE'S SEEKING SOMETHING--SOME INFORMATION, SECRET, OR ARTIFACT--AND THE QUEST HAS OCCUPIED HER TO THE POINT OF OBSESSION...

WRITER GERRY DUGGAN ARTIST FRAZER IRVING
LETTERING VC's CORY PETIT LOGO & DESIGN MANNY MEDEROS

COVER ARTISTS AARON KUDER & IVE SVORCINA VARIANT COVER ARTISTS FRAZER IRVING; KRIS ANKA
ASSISTANT EDITOR KATHLEEN WISNESKI ASSOCIATE EDITOR DARREN SHAN EDITOR JORDAN D. WHITE

EDITOR IN CHIEF AXEL ALONSO CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER JOE QUESADA PRESIDENT DAN BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN FINE

"I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE. YOU'RE
GAMORA.

"YOU WERE ORPHANED
AS A BABY WHEN
YOUR PARENTS WERE
KILLED BY CULTISTS.

"THEN THE **BAD** THING
HAPPENED. **THANOS**
ARRIVED, DRAWN TO
ALL THE **DEATH.**

"HE SAVED
YOU, BUT NOT
OUT OF PITY.

"HE REBUILT YOU,
TRAINED YOU...



"...AND TURNED
YOU LOOSE ON
THE GALAXY.

"YOU FOUND YOUR
VENGEANCE, BUT BY
THEN YOU HAD A TASTE
FOR ALL THE KILLING.





"LATER, YOU ATTACKED
THANOS--HAD TO TRY,
RIGHT? HEH. I'VE COME
TO ADMIRE IT.

"ANYWAY, THAT
DIDN'T WORK
OUT.

"YOU SHOULD
HAVE DIED--
MAYBE YOU DID.

"BUT ADAM
WARLOCK HAD
DIFFERENT PLANS.

"INTO THE
SOUL STONE
YOU WENT..."

"...WHERE YOU LIVED
IN PEACE. A UTOPIAN
VALHALLA, EARNED BY
A WARRIOR IN BATTLE.

"BUT THE QUIET
LIFE DIDN'T SUIT
YOU, DID IT?"



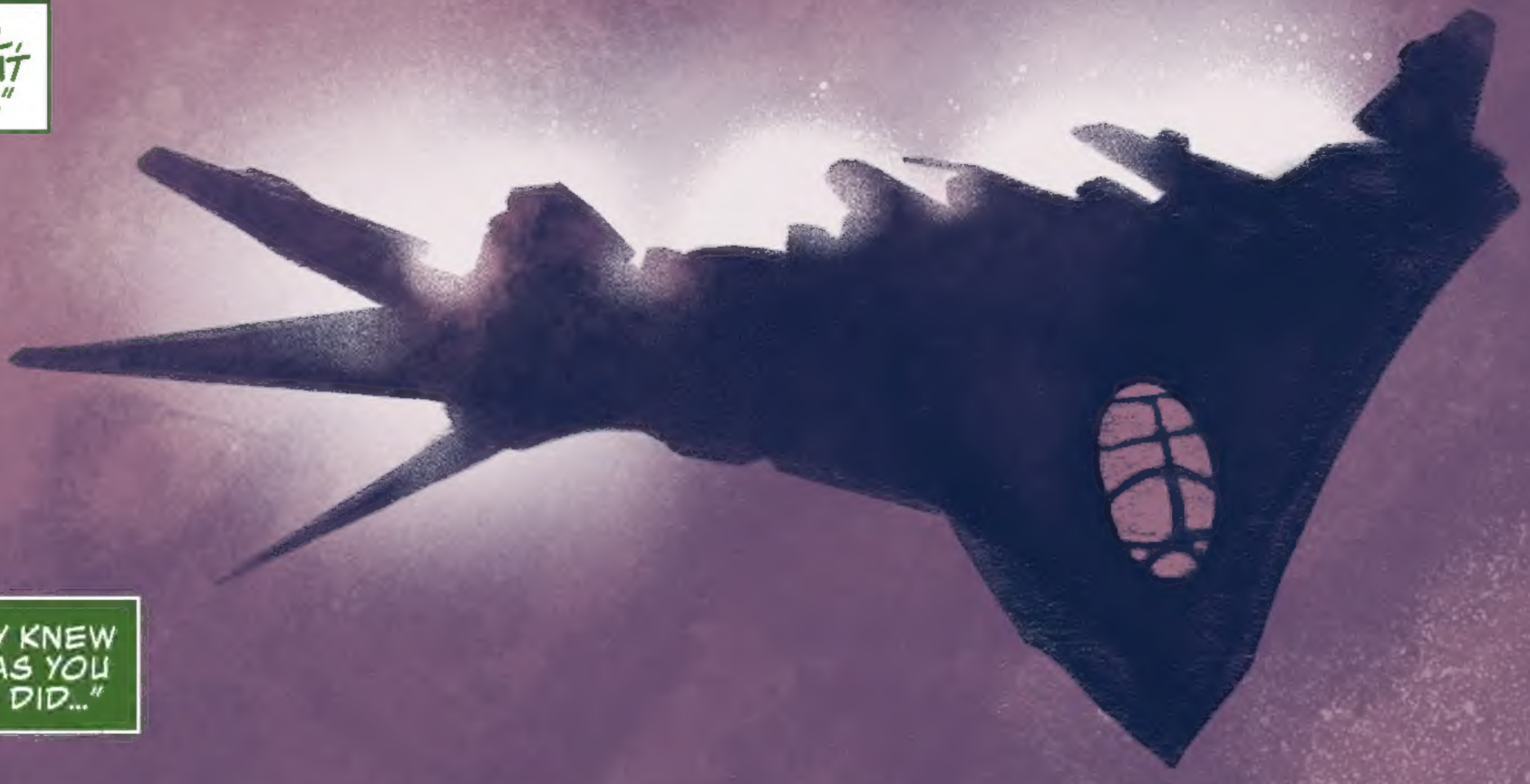
"YOU LEAPT AT THE
CHANCE TO LEAVE SOUL
WORLD AND FACE THE
MAD TITAN ONCE MORE.


"ONCE AGAIN, YOU
AND YOUR FRIENDS
SAVED THE GALAXY.



"THE REST IS...WELL,
NOT EXACTLY *GREAT*
GALACTIC HISTORY."

"IF YOU REALLY KNEW
ME AS WELL AS YOU
THOUGHT YOU DID..."





...YOU
WOULD NOT
HAVE ATTACKED ME
AND BROUGHT ME
TO THIS DEAD
PLANET.

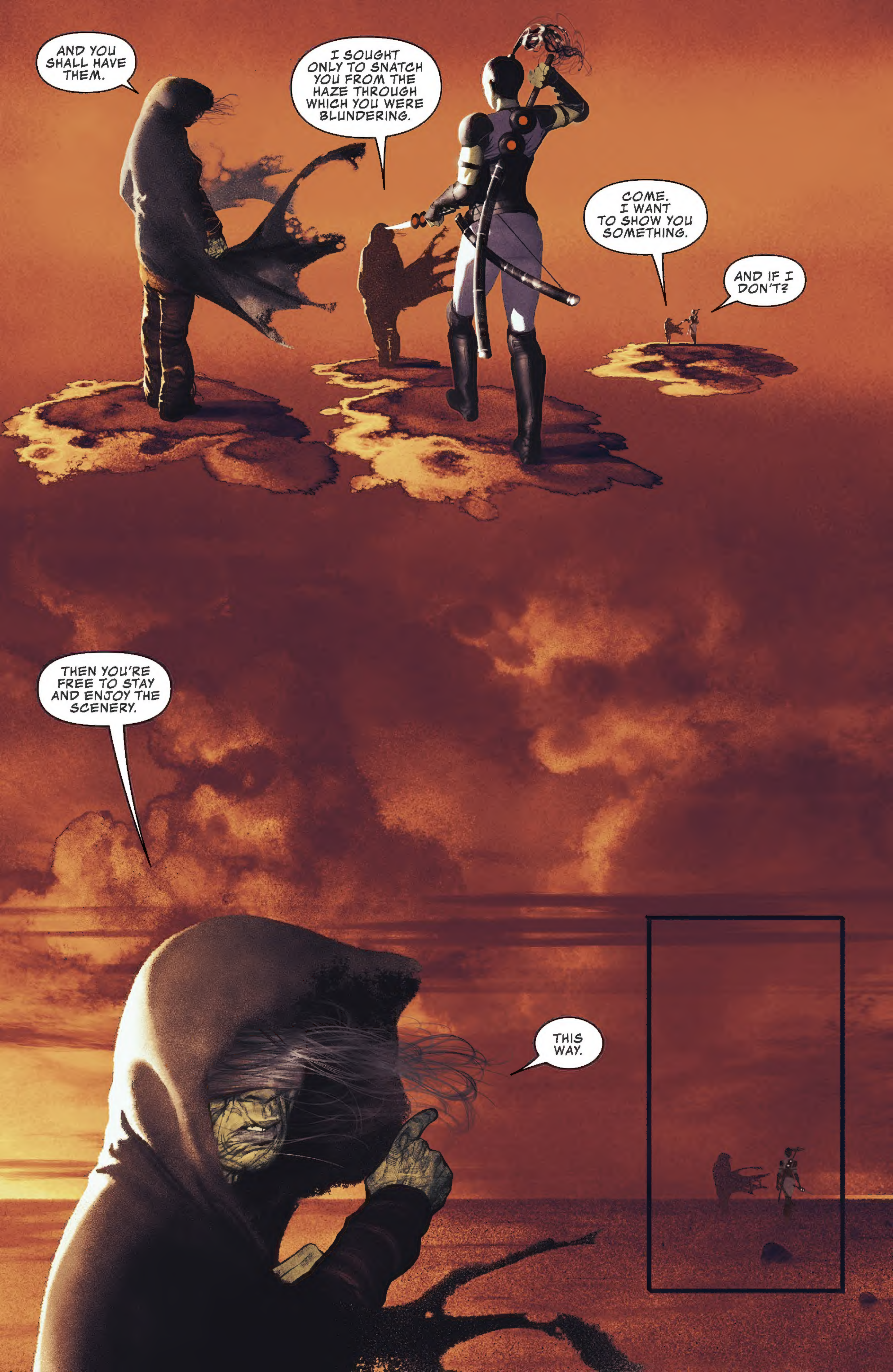
YOU
SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
HANDLE ONE
OLD WOMAN,
GAMORA.

YOU
ARE THE
DEADLIEST
WOMAN IN
THE GALAXY,
RIGHT?

MANY MORE
THAT COULD
ATTEST TO IT ARE
NO LONGER
ABLE TO.

I WANT
ANSWERS,
OLD WOMAN.

NOW.



AND YOU
SHALL HAVE
THEM.

I SOUGHT
ONLY TO SNATCH
YOU FROM THE
HAZE THROUGH
WHICH YOU WERE
BLUNDERING.

COME.
I WANT
TO SHOW YOU
SOMETHING.

AND IF I
DON'T?

THEN YOU'RE
FREE TO STAY
AND ENJOY THE
SCENERY.

THIS
WAY.



THIS IS
THAT SAME
DREAM AGAIN,
ISN'T IT?

I'VE BEEN
HAVING IT MORE
AND MORE
RECENTLY.

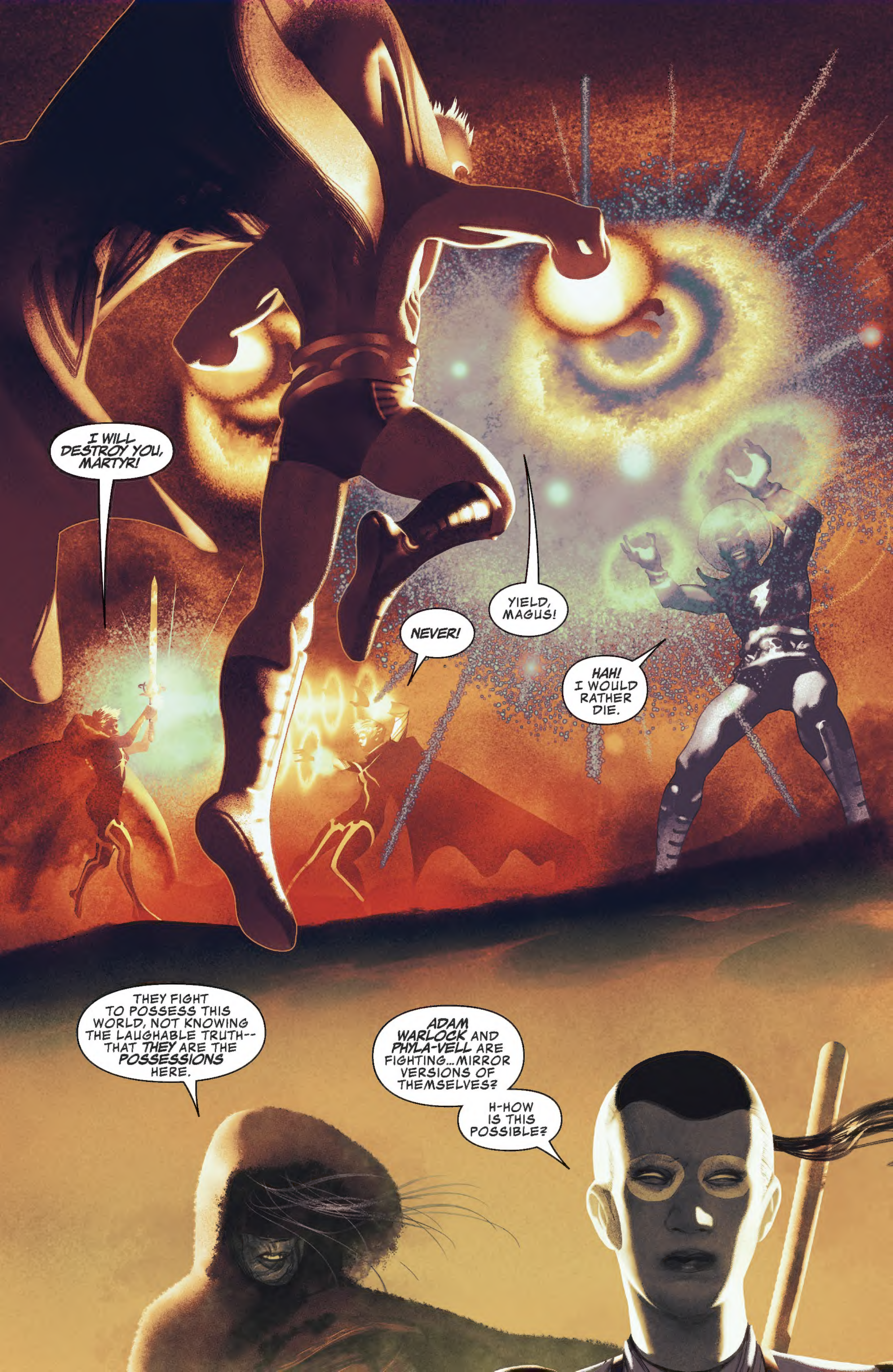
NO, YOU'VE
ALWAYS HAD IT,
YOU'RE JUST
REMEMBERING
IT MORE
NOW.

AND
WHERE ARE
WE SUPPOSED
TO BE?

A PLACE
WHERE **TIME**
DOES NOT HOLD
MUCH SWAY.

THERE
ARE OTHERS
UP AHEAD.

YES.



I WILL
DESTROY YOU,
MARTYR!

NEVER!

YIELD,
MAGUS!

HAH!
I WOULD
RATHER
DIE.

THEY FIGHT
TO POSSESS THIS
WORLD, NOT KNOWING
THE LAUGHABLE TRUTH--
THAT THEY ARE THE
POSSESSIONS
HERE.

ADAM
WARLOCK AND
PHYLA-VELL ARE
FIGHTING...MIRROR
VERSIONS OF
THEMSELVES?

H-HOW
IS THIS
POSSIBLE?

LOOK
OUT!

UNGH!

GAMORA!
THIS ISN'T
YOUR FIGHT!

YOU KNOW
ME, MARTYR--
I'VE NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO WALK
AWAY FROM
ONE.

LEAVE US
ALONE!

WITH
PLEASURE.

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW HOW
I GOT TO THIS
MADHOUSE!

THWACK



THANKS
FOR THE ASSIST,
OLD FRIEND.

AAAIIIEEE!

ADAM!
HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE?
HOW HAVE YOU
RETURNED
TO LIFE?

OR--AM
I--?

YOU'RE
CONFUSED,
GAMORA. I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
HERE.

SHRAARR BOOOOOOM

TAKE
MY HAND! WE
HAVE TO GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE!

NOW!

COUGH
COUGH

FOLLOW ME!

AND BE QUIET! THEIR BATTLE HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED.

THIS IS **CRAZY**--WHY WERE WARLOCK AND PHYLIA FIGHTING THEMSELVES--AND WHO ARE YOU?

SHH!
NOT NOW.

YOU DON'T FEEL THAT?


FEEL WHAT?

OH.



THERE IS
WORSE HERE
BEYOND OUR
SIGHT.

LET IT PASS
OVER US AND
SATE ITS HUNGER
ELSEWHERE.



SOME OF
THE **ELDER SOULS**
FROM THE BEGINNING
OF THE UNIVERSE
ARE TRAPPED HERE
WITH US.

I HAVE
TO GET
BACK TO MY
FRIENDS.

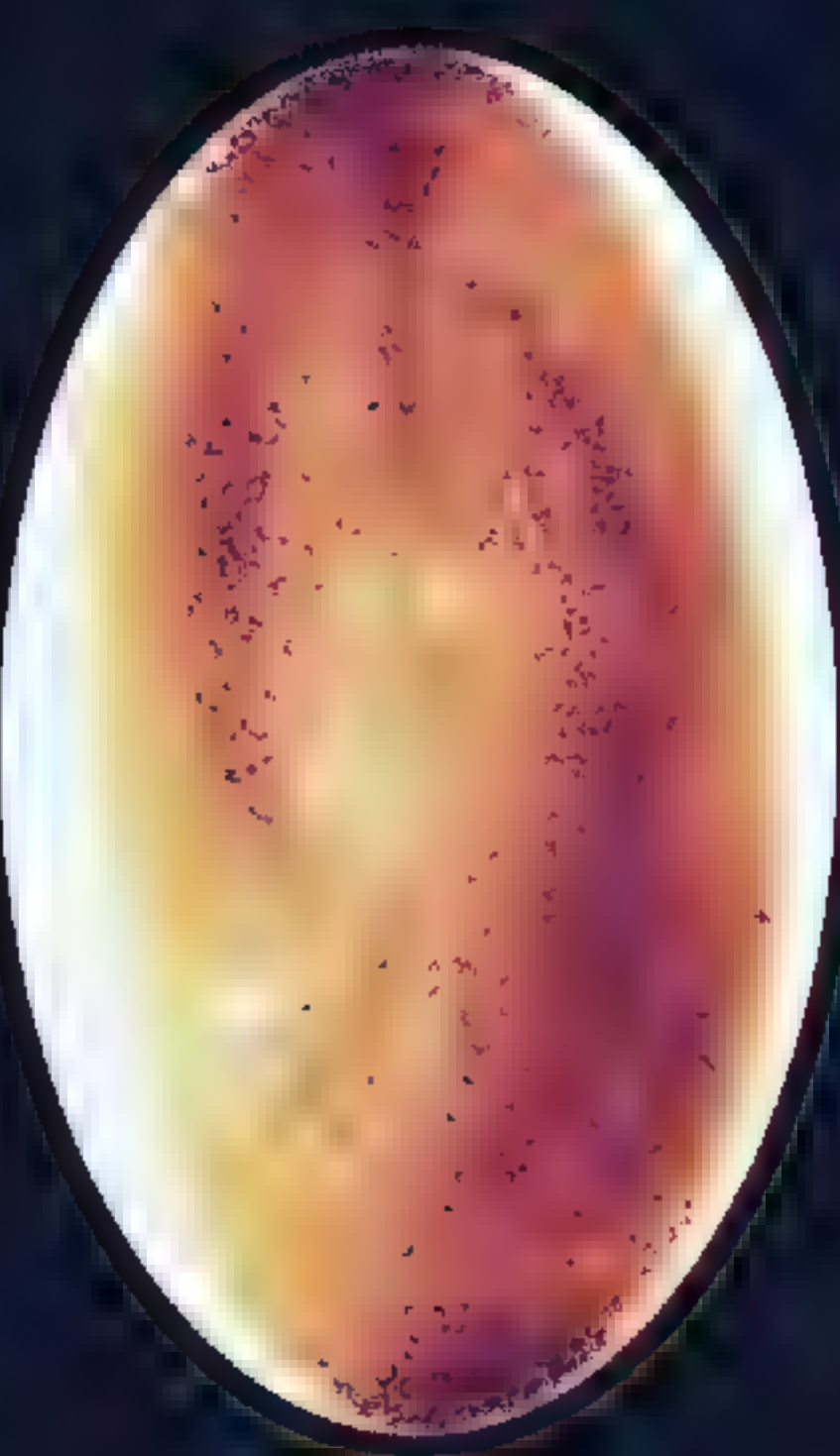
WELL, THAT
WOULD BE
A REALLY NEAT
TRICK.

DON'T
WORRY, OLD
WOMAN. I'VE
GOTTEN OUT
OF WORSE
JAMS.

NO, YOU
HAVEN'T.

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
TRYING TO TELL
YOU--**YOU'RE**
STILL HERE!

PART
OF YOU
MAY HAVE
LEFT...



"...BUT THIS ROCK WE'RE ON
HAS AN *INCLUSION* IN IT. A
DEEP, DARK FLAW. A PIECE
OF US WAS SCRAPED OFF,
OR LEFT BEHIND.

"ADAM WARLOCK
SAVED YOUR
YOUNG LIFE BY
BRINGING ME HERE.



"BUT THE STONE
DOESN'T GIVE UP ITS
CLAIMS SO EASILY.

"MAYBE EVERYONE
THAT ENTERS THE
STONE LOSES A BIT
OF THEMSELVES.





"OR MAYBE THE
STONE COPIES US.
I DON'T KNOW.




"I *DO* KNOW THAT
EVERYONE HERE
HAS A VEIL OVER
THEIR EYES ABOUT
THE NATURE OF
THEIR EXISTENCE."




I UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE ME, IF I
NEVER LEFT THE
SOUL STONE.

AND NOW
YOU'VE BROKEN
THE SPELL BY
COVERING YOUR
EYES.

NO, I'M
AFRAID...




...I HAD TO
DO WORSE
THAN THAT.



I HAD TO
TAKE OUT OUR
EYES TO **FINALLY**
SEE THE STONE'S
TRUTH.

WHY DO WE
SEE THIS PRISON
WHEN NO ONE
ELSE DOES?



PERHAPS
THEY SOMETIMES
DO. BELIEVING THE
LIE IS EASIER ON
THE MIND.

PERHAPS
THANOS DID
SOMETHING TO US.
OR WE'RE JUST
UNLUCKY.



HOW DO
WE FIND A
WAY OUT?

NO
IDEA.

WHAT
IF WE ONLY
IMAGINED EVER
ESCAPING?

I REMEMBER
HAVING THE SAME
THOUGHT...



"...RIGHT AROUND
THE TIME I PUT
MY EYES OUT."

!GASP!


DAMMIT, I'M
MISSING THAT
SPECIAL PART.
WHERE THE
HELL DID I
LOSE IT?





AHA.
HERE IT
IS.


OUR
GALACTUS
MECH WON'T BE
ABLE TO BALANCE
WITHOUT THE
GYROSCOPE THAT
QUILL SWIPED.



AFTER THIS
JOB, WE CAN ALL
AFFORD TO STOP
TAKING DOWN
SCORES.

GO OUR
SEPARATE
WAYS AND
LIVE QUIET
LIVES.

I AM
GROOT.



HA. YEAH,
I MEANT
"QUIET **FER**
ME."

HEY,
GAMORA, WHAT
ARE YOU GONNA
DO AFTER THE
GRANDMASTER
JOB?



HELP US NAME OUR LETTER COLUMN!! GOT A SUGGESTION?
Let us know at GALACTIC@MARVEL.COM and mark "Okay to print"!

Send your letters to
GALACTIC@MARVEL.COM
and mark "Okay to print!"

Issue # 1 of ALL-NEW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY was awesome! The art by Aaron Kuder was fantastic and I can't wait to see what trouble the Guardians are going to get into in this run! I found the predicament Groot is in right now particularly interesting. Is this something that is going to be addressed in this book, or the I AM GROOT series that is coming out? Anyways, looking forward to whatever story Gerry Duggan has up his sleeve, and some more interesting scenarios to put pacifist Drax in! Congrats to the whole team! Great first issue--can't wait for #2!

All the Best,
Ernesto

Thanks for the kind words, Ernesto. We're excited that so many of you are starting to enjoy what we've been working on in secret for so long now. As you've discovered our small Groot is not a baby, and it's not a great thing that he seems stuck at his size. That story will continue to burn and worsen (sorry) as summer progresses. The reason Drax is trying to get by without violence is also a bummer. (Sorry/Not sorry.) All will be explained. Glad you're having fun--we are behind the scenes, too. Dunno if the Guardians will think our plans are fun. They didn't do anything to deserve this mistreatment, but...deserve's got nothing to do with it. SEE YOU IN SPACE!

What's up, guys?

Let me tell ya, this comic was goood! I am definitely going to stick around. The story was clever and the art is awesome and different. I will tell anybody on the fence about this comic to hop off and go pick up this comic RIGHT NOW! IT IS WORTH IT! I had high hopes for this comic and it looks like they're being fulfilled.

Thanks, guys,
A. Roche

Thank you, Mr. A. I'm getting to apply the tricks I learned from DEADPOOL and UNCANNY AVENGERS. Aaron just has to be himself. How good are he and I've together? Their pages transport you off this planet. I'm as big a fan of those guys as you are. Thanks again for jumping on GUARDIANS. Buckle up, things are going to get rocky.

Hey guys, what's happening!

Adam, A.K.A. manoffluff, here, and this is my first time writing in! Just want to say I cannot wait to read this run of GUARDIANS and I love love love that you've brought the *Milano* into it! It's a close tie to the *Millennium Falcon* for me. Just wanted to share the love, and cannot wait to see what you guys have in store!

Cheers!
Adam C.

P.S. To all members of the creative team, who is your favorite Guardian?

We thought it would be fun to take the classic MCU team, and plunge them deep into the Marvel Cosmic Universe in new and fun ways. Don't mind them having an impeccably designed spaceship that originated from the films as we head into uncharted territory. As for who is my favorite Guardian, that changes from scene to scene and issue to issue. Today Drax was the character that spoke to me because of a heavy scene I wrote for Aaron to draw in his next arc. I can't wait for you guys to catch up to us. Thanks again for reading.

Holy geez! What a hilarious and silly first few pages and strangely cryptic last page! I'm so happy to see Aaron Kuder flexing his artistic muscles in the Guardians' latest hijinks epic. I've been a fan of your art since your run on Action Comics with Greg Pak. (Shout-out to Greg Pak for doing an amazing job on TOTALLY AWESOME HULK and WEAPON X--I'm excited for the crossover.) I hope you guys decide to reunite for a future Marvel project, maybe for the rumored sequel to PLANET HULK? *wink wink nudge nudge* Kidding aside, I'm glad you're finding more writers you synergize with so well within the industry--you and Gerry Duggan make a great team so far as I can tell based off this first issue. Can't wait to see what else is in store for the Guardians! Will Drax continue this weird pacifism bender? Will Kuder's Baby Groot continue to be the cutest Baby Groot drawn by Marvel artists? I sure as heck hope that's a yes on the latter question.

Thanks, dudes!
Ricky Castro
Tucson, AZ

Hey, PLANET HULK is in outer space! I work in outer space! As for Groot, he will be under the weather for the next little while, and anyone wishing for him to be big should be careful what they wish for. Making wishes for characters that I'm currently the custodian of usually backfires spectacularly. Thanks, Ricky. I hope you stick with our book. The Guardians, and the shape of the Marvel Cosmic corner of the sandbox, won't be the same for very long. Thanks for the support.

Gerry



ISSUE 004

THANOS 008



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